

Equipment and Assistive Technology Initiative

Parksville, BC – At the Committee of the Whole meeting on April 19, the Council of the City of Parksville, received a presentation by Albert Ruel, super navigator, with British Columbia Association for Individualized Technology and Supports.

Mr Ruel outlined the program which is a partnership between the Ministry of Housing and Social Development and the Provincial Personal Supports Network, responsible for delivering the Equipment and Assistive Technology Initiative (EATI). EATI provides a source of funding for assessment, trialing, acquisition and/or training with equipment and assistive devices for people with disabilities who have employment or voluntarism goals.

The intent of the program is to increase participation in the workforce, enhance the quality of skills development and training, facilitate workforce mobility and provide the information necessary to make informed labour market choices for people with disabilities.

Eligibility requirements and more information can be found on the City's website at <http://parksville.ca/cms.asp?wpID=166>

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For more information:

Debbie Tardiff, Communications officer 250 954-3073

Provincial Personal Supports Network Equipment and Assistive Technology Initiative

The Provincial Personal Supports Network consists of a number of groups and organizations, across the province, who have come together to improve access to personal supports, beginning with equipment and assistive devices. The Network uses the **Participation Model for Personal Supports** as their operating framework. The Participation Model is a person-centered, functional approach which begins with a person's goals and offers assistance with navigating all of the stages of acquiring and using personal supports in order to reach this goal.

In partnership with the Ministry of Housing and Social Development, the Provincial Personal Supports Network is responsible for delivering the **Equipment and Assistive Technology Initiative (EATI)**. EATI provides a source of funding for assessment, trialing, acquisition and/or training with equipment and assistive devices for people with disabilities who have employment or voluntarism goals. This funding has been provided to the province through the federal/provincial **Labour Market Agreement** which transferred funds to British Columbia in order to increase the participation in the workforce, enhance the quality of skills development and training, facilitate workforce mobility, and provide the information necessary to make informed labour market choices.

In order to be eligible for EATI funding individuals must be:

- A person with a disability who has an employment or volunteer goal
- 18 years of age or older
- A BC Resident
- Unemployed or employed with low skills (for example, low English literacy, incomplete high school) and looking to upgrade
- Ineligible for Employment Insurance (EI)
 - Have not received an EI benefit in the past 3 years
 - Have not received an EI maternity or parental benefit in the past 5 years
- Able to demonstrate a need for Assistive Technology
- Unable to access funding through other programs

Part-time students **who are available for work** may be eligible for EATI. Also, older citizens available for work or volunteering (i.e., those over 65) are eligible.

How the EATI Application Process Works

If you are a person with a disability and you think that you might be eligible for EATI funding there are a number of ways that you can proceed:

- Connect with one of the BC Provincial Personal Supports Network member organizations and they will help to navigate you through the EATI process:

Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

<http://www.widhh.com/>

Voice: (604) 736-7391

TTY (TDD): (604) 736-2527

Fax: (604) 736-4381

BC Coalition for People with Disabilities

<http://www.bccpd.bc.ca/>

Voice: 604-872-1278

TTY: 604-875-8835

Fax: 604-875-9227

Neil Squire Society

<http://www.neilsquire.ca/>

Voice: 604-473-9363

Fax: 604-473-9364

Richmond Centre for Disability

<http://www.rcdrichmond.org/>

Voice: 604-232-2404

TTY: 604-232-2479

Fax: 604-232-2415

Victoria Personal Supports Centre

<http://www.drcvictoria.com/>

Voice: 250-595-0044 ext. 100

Prince George Personal Supports Centre

Voice: 250 563-2008

TTY: 250 563-2058

**British Columbia Association for Individualized Technology and Supports
(PROP and TIL)**

<http://www.bcits.org/>

PROP Voice: 1-866-326-1245

TIL Voice: 604-326-0175

PROP & TIL Fax: 604-326-0176

The Seeing Caucus (for those with vision loss)

Linda Bartram (Chair) lindabartram@telus.net

Voice 250-498-2434

- If there is no BC Personal Supports Network member organization available to you, then contact the BC Personal Supports Network's EATI navigators and one of them will help you to navigate the EATI process.

Toll free hotline: 877.333.7554

Fax: 604-326-0176

Email: EATI@bcits.org

Mail: EATI

9007 Shaughnessy Street, Vancouver, BC V6P 6R9

Are you a person with a **disability**?
 Want to become **employed**?
 Would you like to **volunteer**?

The Equipment and Assistive Technology Initiative (**EATI**) may be for you!

If you need Assistive Technology in order to achieve your employment or volunteer goal, you could be eligible to have those needs funded. To start the process, please fill out the following information to the best of your ability. You will then be contacted by a member of the Provincial Personal Supports Network to take you through the application process.

Applicant

Full Name	Telephone
Address	Email

Please check all that applies to you.

- I am a person with a disability who has an **employment** or **volunteer** goal
- I am 18 years of age or older and a resident of BC
- I am unemployed **or** employed with low skills (for example, low English literacy, incomplete high school) and looking to upgrade
- I am not eligible for Employment Insurance (EI)
- I have not had an EI benefit in the past 3 years
- I have not had an EI maternity or parental benefit in the past 5 years.
- I need Assistive Technology
- I have checked, and am not able to access funding from other sources

Individual or organisation assisting you through this process (if any)

Full Name	Telephone
Position	Organisation
Address	Email

Good solutions come from a better understanding of your needs. Answering the following three questions will help you to accomplish your employment or volunteer goal.

What things do you wish to do in your home or community related to employment and/or volunteering that you're not able to do right now? Goal

What is stopping you from doing these things? Barrier

What equipment do you think you need to help you do these things? Needs

Date submitted (YYYY MMM DD)

Please return this form to: e-mail: EATI@bcits.org or fax: 604-326-0176 or by mail to:
9007 Shaughnessy Street, Vancouver, BC V6P 6R9

You will be contacted shortly to pursue your application by a member of the Provincial Personal Supports Network; if you have any questions please call **1-877-333-7554**